

DIG SAFE

Frequently Asked Questions

Both Federal and State laws (RI. General Law 39-1.2) require excavators to notify appropriate utility companies before excavating in the State of Rhode Island. Notifying individual member utilities would be time consuming, but calling the DIG SAFE Association through a one-call system simplifies the process.

DIG SAFE is a system, required by these laws and funded by member companies, which allows excavators to notify all participating utilities with just one telephone call. The public utilities to be notified are electric, gas, telephone, water and cable television companies in the state. DIG SAFE offers a nationwide toll-free number, **1-888-DIG SAFE** (1-888-344-7233) for this notification before digging, trenching, blasting, demolishing, boring, back filling, grading, landscaping, or other earth moving operations.

This system was created to promote public safety, avoid costly damage to underground facilities, and reduce cost and time of notifications.

Q: Who must notify DIG SAFE before a dig?

Any person, property owner, contractor, public agency or public utility responsible for excavating within one hundred (100') feet or for discharging explosives within one hundred (100') feet of a public utility facility are required by law to notify DIG SAFE.

Q. What minimum time period is required to notify the DIG SAFE Association before excavation can begin?

The DIG SAFE notification must be made by telephone at least 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) prior to the proposed excavation but no more than thirty (30) days before commencing such excavation or discharge of explosives. Actual excavation must be performed with thirty (30) days or the excavator must re-notify the DIG SAFE Association.

Q. If the utility markings have faded or have been obliterated, can DIG SAFE be recalled for re-marking?

DIG SAFE Association may be re-notified if the utility markings have lost their visibility. The utilities are required by law to remark the locations of their underground facilities in twenty-four (24) hours.

Q. How does the excavator know which utility is associated with which colored markings?

Each public utilities has been nationally designated a specific color for DIG SAFE markings. The utilities, if they have underground facilities in the excavation area,

will

mark the locations their respective colors.

<u>Public Utility</u>		<u>Marking Color</u>
Electric	-	RED
Gas	-	YELLOW
Communications (Telephone or CATV)	-	ORANGE
Water	-	BLUE

Q: If I am hand digging, am I required to notify DIG SAFE?

No, but it makes good sense to call anyway. The call is toll-free and it's better to be safe than sorry.

Q: If I hire someone to excavate, do I have to notify DIG SAFE?

The licensed excavator actually doing the digging is responsible for notifying DIG SAFE.

Q: How many days is a DIG SAFE request valid?

The notification request is valid for a thirty (30) day period from the time and date that the call was placed to the DIG SAFE Association. The 30-day time period does not begin on the date of initial excavation. If the 30-day time period expires without excavation, you are required to re-contact DIG SAFE.

Q: What if I am digging on private property, must I still notify DIG SAFE?

Yes, any property owner or contractor digging on private property with any type of mechanical tools (such as leased or rental equipment must notified DIG SAFE and delay 48 hours before excavation.

Q: Is hand digging required around underground facilities?

Yes, the law requires excavators to hand dig to locate the utilities before mechanical excavation begins. After calling DIG SAFE and utilities have marked the excavation area for known underground facilities, the excavator is then required to locate the underground facilities by hand digging in the approximate location of the marked utilities.